(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing severity of the drought and famine conditions in Rajasthan affecting over 22 million people in the State; and

(b) if so, what is the nature and extent of Central assistance that has been given to the Government of Rajasthan since October, 1985 till date as against their demand to tide over the situation stating the reasons for not meeting the demand in full and the manner in which Government propose to assist the Government of Rajasthan to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan submitted a Memorandum in the month of October, 1985 seeking Central assistance amounting to Rs. 579.38 Crores for drought relief. On the basis of report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief (HLCR), a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 81.27 Crores was approved. Further an amount of Rs. 15.00 Crores was approved in April, 1986, for employment generation. The State Government submitted a supplementary Memorandum in the month of May, 1986 seeking Central Assistance of Rs. 151.68 crores for continuing drought relief operations. The report of the Central Team which visited the State from 2nd to 7th June, 1986 has been considered by the HCLR and further Central assistance will be sanctioned shortly. In addition 5.00 lakhs tons of wheat has been allocated to the State Government for distribution amongst the workers engaged in relief works at subsidised rates.

BALCO's bauxite mining project in Orissa

73. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been stiff resistance by the tribals to the setting up of public sector BALCO's bauxite mining project in the Sambalpur district of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of people likely to be affected as a result of the implementation of the project and the manner in which Government propose to resolve the issue keeping in view the interests of the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The implementation of Gandhamardan Bauxite Mining Project of BALCO in Orissa was taken up after Government's approval in July, 1982. Recently public concern has been voiced and certain representations were made to Government aganist implementation of this project due to apprehension of environmental and ecological problems. Some tribals also are among those who resorted to agitational approach which continued in a sporadic way.

(c) The tribal population in 63 villages within a radius of 10 Kms of the mine site is 15,673 out of a total population of 25,516 (Census 1981). Out of a total forest area of about 20,000 hectares of Gandhamardan Hill range, an area of 162 hectares would be required for the Gandhamardan Project of BALCO. Necessary clearances under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been duly obtained by BALCO. The interest of the local tribals would not be adversely affected by acquisition of this limited area of forest.

There are 12 families who have been displaced by land acquisition. In case of another 214 families, only a part of their land holdings have been acquired for the Project. The affected people have been paid compensation as determined by the State Government. Moreover, some of them will be provided gainful employment in the Project as per guidelines of the Government of India.